

IN THE CLAIMS

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A record carrier carrying a stereo signal and a data signal, said stereo signal being recorded using in a first physical feature on said record carrier channel, characterized in that the data signal comprises a first portion and a remaining portion, said first portion being combined with said stereo signal to obtain a composite signal being recorded in using said first physical feature channel on said record carrier and the remaining portion being recorded in using a second physical feature channel on said record carrier different from said first physical feature.

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Claim 2 (original) The record carrier as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said first portion being combined with said stereo signal by using buried data techniques.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The record carrier as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the data signal comprises a data compressed multichannel extension signal being a representation of a multichannel extension signal.

Claim 4 (original): The record carrier as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the multichannel extension signal comprises a center channel signal.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The record carrier as claimed in claim 3 ~~or 4~~, characterized in that the multichannel extension signal comprises a surround left signal and a surround right signal.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The record carrier as claimed in claim 3, 4 ~~or 5~~, characterized in that the data compressed multichannel extension signal is a perceptually encoded representation of the multichannel extension signal.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The record carrier as claimed in claim 3, 4, 5 ~~or 6~~ characterized in that the first portion represents a partial representation of the multichannel extension signal.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The record carrier as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding~~

~~claims~~ characterized in that said first physical feature channel is represented by first variations of a first physical parameter of the record carrier and said second physical feature channel is represented by second variations of a second physical parameter of the record carrier, said second physical parameter differing from said first physical parameter.

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Claim 9 (withdrawn): The record carrier as claimed in any of claim 1 to 7, characterized in that said composite signal in said first channel and said remaining portion in said second channel being obtained by n to m channel modulation of the composite signal into a sequence of m-bit channel words, insertion of p merging bits between said m-bit channel words, said merging bits being modified in response to said remaining portion.

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Claim 10 (withdrawn): The record carrier as claimed in any of claim 1 to 7, characterized in that said composite signal in said first channel and said remaining portion in said second channel being obtained by processing the composite signal into a sequence of q byte blocks, insertion of a r byte subcode between said q byte blocks, at least one bit of said r byte subcode being obtained in response to said remaining portion.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The record carrier as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that said composite signal in said first channel and said remaining portion in said second channel being obtained by further channel encoding of the sequence of q byte blocks and r byte subcodes

Claim 12 (currently amended): Method for recording a stereo signal and a data signal on a record carrier comprising the steps:

- writing said stereo signal in a first physical feature channel on the record carrier characterized in that the method further comprises the steps:
- splitting the data extension signal into a first portion and a remaining portion,
- writing said remaining portion of said data signal in a second physical feature channel on the record carrier different from said first physical feature,
- combining said first portion to said stereo signal prior to writing said stereo signal in said first physical feature channel to obtain a composite signal
- writing the composite signal in the first physical feature channel.

Claim 13 (original) Method as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the combining step is performed by using buried data techniques.

Claim 14 (currently amended): Method as claimed in claim 12 ~~or 13~~, characterized in that the method further comprises the step data compressing a multichannel extension signal into the data signal.

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Claim 15 (withdrawn): Method as claimed in anyone of claim 12 to 14, characterized in that the first channel is written on the record carrier by first variations of a first physical parameter of the record carrier and that the second channel is written on the record carrier by second variations of a second physical parameter of the record carrier, said second physical parameter differing from said first physical parameter.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): Method as claimed in any of claim 12 to 14, characterized in that the method further comprises the steps n to m channel modulation of the composite signal to obtain a sequence of m-bit channel words, generating p merging bits in response to said remaining portion, inserting said p merging bits between said m-bit channel words and writing the thus obtained signal on the record carrier.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): Method as claimed in any of claim 12 to 14, characterized in that the method further comprises the steps processing the composite signal into a sequence of q byte blocks, generating at least one bit in response to said remaining portion for insertion in a r byte subcode, inserting said r byte subcode between said q byte blocks and writing the thus obtained signal on the record carrier.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A recording product ~~Recording apparatus for carrying out the~~
~~defined by the method steps of as claimed in anyone of the claims claim 12 to 17.~~

Claim 19 (currently amended): Reproducing apparatus for reproducing a stereo signal and a data signal from a record carrier, comprising

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- first reading means for reading a first reproduction signal from a first physical feature channel on the record carrier, characterized in that the apparatus further comprises
 - means for extracting a first portion of the data signal from the first reproduction signal,
 - second reading means for reading a remaining portion of the data signal from a second physical feature channel on the record carrier wherein said first physical feature is different from said second physical feature,
 - combining means for combining the first portion and the remaining portion to obtain the data signal
 - means for converting the first reproduction signal into said stereo signal.

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Claim 20 (original): Reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 19 characterized in that the extraction means are adapted for extracting the first portion of the data signal from the first reproducing signal by using buried data techniques.

Claim 21 (currently amended): Reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 19 ~~or 20~~, characterized in that the data signal comprises a data compressed multichannel extension signal, whereby the apparatus further comprises

- decompressing means for decompressing the data compressed multichannel extension signal into a multichannel extension signal.

Claim 22 (original): Reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 21, characterized in that the multichannel extension signal comprises a center channel signal.

Claim 23 (currently amended): Reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 21 ~~or 22~~, characterized in that the multichannel extension signal comprises a surround left signal and a surround right signal.

Claim 24 (currently amended): Reproducing apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claim 19 to 23~~, characterized in that the first reading means are arranged for reading the stereo signal from the first physical feature channel by detecting first variations of a first physical parameter of the record carrier and that the second reading means are arranged for reading the remaining part of

the data signal from the second physical feature channel by detecting second variations of a second physical parameter of the record carrier, said second physical parameter differing from said first physical parameter.

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Claim 25 (withdrawn): Reproducing apparatus as claimed in any of claim 19 to 23, characterized in that said first reading means comprises means for splitting said first reproduction signal into a sequence of m-bit channel words and p merging bits, the converting means comprises means for m - n channel demodulation of said m-bit channel words to obtain the composite signal, and said second reading means comprises means for processing said p merging bits to obtain said remaining portion.

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Claim 26 (withdrawn): Reproducing apparatus as claimed in any of claim 19 to 23, characterized in that said first reading means comprises means for splitting said reproduction signal into a sequence of q byte blocks and r byte subcodes, processing means for processing said q-byte blocks to obtain the composite signal, and said second reading means comprises means for processing at least one bit from said r byte subcodes to obtain said remaining portion.

Claim 27 (new): The record carrier as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that said first physical feature further comprises a first optically detectable indicia within the record carrier and said second physical feature further comprises a second optically detectable indicia different from said first optically detectable indicia.

Claim 28 (new): The method for recording a stereo signal and a data signal as in claim 12 wherein the writing steps are characterized by said first physical feature comprising a first optically detectable indicia within the record carrier and said second physical feature comprising a second optically detectable indicia different from said first optically detectable indicia.

Claim 29 (new): The reproducing apparatus of claim 19 characterized in that said first physical feature comprises a first optically detectable indicia within the record carrier and said second physical feature comprises a second optically detectable indicia different, wherein said second optically detectable indicia is different from said first optically detectable indicia.